

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O R 211005Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8706

S E C R E T GABORONE 1770

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH, SA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT KHAMA

REF: SECTO 27211

1. TEXT TRANSMITTED REFTEL DELIVERED BY CHARGE' TO PRESIDENT KHAMA
1000 SEPTEMBER 21.

2. PRESIDENT WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE COMMUNICATION, AND SAID
HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE
NEXT WEEK.

3. ASKED IF HE HAD ANY SPECIFIC VIEW OR SUGGESTIONS TO COM-
MUNICATE TO THE SECRETARY, PRESIDENT KHAMA REPLIED, "NO, NOT AT
THIS TIME; IS SUPPORT ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS".

4. PRESIDENT REFERRED TO PRESS REPORTS THAT SECRETARY MIGHT
GO TO KINSHASA, AND ASKED IF SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE RELATED TO
THE ONGOING INITIATIVES OR WOULD DEAL WITH US/ZAIRE BILATERIAL
ISSUES ONLY. CHARGE, FINESSED THIS, SAYING HE HAD ONLY SEE
EXCERPT OF THE SEPT. 17 PRESS CONFERENCE, AND WAS UNAWARE OF
SECRETARY'S SPECIFIC PLANS. PRESIDENT NOTED WITH AMUSEMENT
THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD ORALLY PROMISED TO COME FOR BOTSWANA'S TENTH

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ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, AND THAT THE OPPOSITION HERE HAD EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO SUCH VISIT, CHARACTERIZING MOBUTU AS "CIA AGENT".

5. PRESIDENT ALSO WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER IF INDEED SMITH HAD BEEN WON OVER TO SUPPORT (OR AT LEAST ACCEPT) MAJORITY RULE, THEN WHAT MEANS HAD BEEN EMPLOYED TO PERSUADE, PRESSURE OR EVEN THREATEN HIM INTO THIS POSITION. HE SEEMED TO THINK THAT SOME AT LEAST IMPLIED THREAT MUST HAVE BEEN SUED ON SMITH AS HE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE A MAN EASILY PERSUADED BY OTHER MEANS. TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF VORSTER'S APPARENT COOPERATION, HE ALSO POINTEDLY ASKED IF THE PRICE OF GOLD ON THE WORLD MARKET HAD INCREASED, AND MUSED THAT THE SAG MUST CERTAINLY BE AWARE OF USG'S POTENTIAL ABILITY TO DEPRESS GOLD PRICES AT LEAST TEMPORARILY BY SELLING OFF LARGE QUANTITIES OF ITS GOLD RESERVES. THE THOUGHT BEHIND HIS REMARKS WAS OBVIOUS.

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